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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Melcher

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Attorney Docket No.: MELC-11158

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

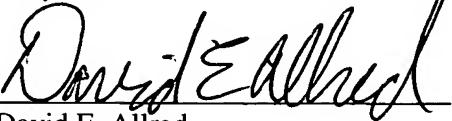
This amendment is being filed to place the application claims in better condition for preliminary examination. A clean version of the amended claims to replace the claims as originally filed in the international application is attached, together with a marked-up version of the claims.

In the marked-up version of the claims: the original claims 1-23 have been canceled. Claims 1-25 (previously 24-48) have been amended to renumber claims.

**CONCLUSION**

If any extra fees are due as a result of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0513. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
David E. Allred  
Reg. No. 47,254

Date: April 27, 2006

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